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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4219
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 6241
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 0020
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4485
RHMCSSU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 000189

///// C O R R E C T E D C O P Y /////
///// CORRECTING PARA 1 TEXT /////
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SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/IR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/10/2020
TAGS: IR PGOV PHUM PREL UNESCO

SUBJECT: IRAN: UNESCO REPORTS ARREST OF TWO JOURNALISTS

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Sylvia Reed Curran. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) The Tehran Cluster Office of UNESCO informed Iran Watcher by email today that two journalists, employed by their office a part of a school journalism project, were detained upon arrival at a Tehran school. (Our contact was writing from his UNESCO account as Gmail has been blocked in Iran for the past three days). The journalists, Nima Afshar Naderi, editor of the newspaper Pendar, and Bahnaz Jalalipoor, were reportedly arrested as they arrived for a meeting with students and teachers about the "School Wall Newspaper" project.

¶2. (C) The School Wall project was launched last year in 12 Tehran primary and secondary schools. Its activities include lessons in realistic narration of events, producing a school newspaper, creating "wall newspapers," producing news reports and on-line reports.

¶3. (C) COMMENT: Scores of journalists have been arrested in Iran since the disputed presidential election last June. These detentions, however, were apparently the first involving UNESCO implementing partners. END COMMENT.

CURRAN